



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7722
E-mail: sjasinski@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7982
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2003

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March increased 21% over the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). After a large drop in production from January to February, caused by companies in Florida and North Carolina attempting to reduce stocks of phosphate rock, production in the region was closer to the 2002 monthly average of 2.5 million metric tons (Mt). The reopening of a phosphoric acid plant and increased consumption of phosphate rock contributed to greater output from mines in Florida and North Carolina in March. Annualized production for 2003 was estimated to be 32.3 Mt, which was about 9% lower than in 2002.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in March increased by 13% from February, to 3.13 Mt. Annualized sales or use for the year was estimated to be 35.4 Mt, which was about 2%

higher than in 2002. U.S. producer ending stocks for March fell 4% from those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau data. In addition, Census trade is not available for the current month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock in 2002 were 2.7 Mt or an average of 225,000 tons per month. Table 4 shows first quarter 2003 phosphate rock export data from the Moroccan phosphate producer.

Domestic consumption for 2003 was estimated to be 38.1 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 2002 calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted trade data was 37.5 Mt.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2002: ^P									
January-March	7,480	792	8,270	7,380	1,180	8,560	XX	XX	XX
March	2,700	167	2,870	2,610	353	2,970	5,940	1,620	7,560
April	2,570	242	2,810	2,520	413	2,930	5,990	1,440	7,430
May	2,650	635	3,280	2,570	388	2,960	6,040	1,690	7,730
June	2,480	531	3,010	2,470	365	2,840	5,940	1,860	7,800
July	2,550	497	3,050	2,560	517	3,070	6,180	1,840	8,020
August	2,690	694	3,380	2,590	352	2,940	6,360	2,170	8,530
September	2,490	472	2,960	2,420	378	2,800	6,420	2,270	8,690
October	2,580	450	3,030	2,530	375	2,900	6,510	1,440	7,950
November	2,530	366	2,900	2,460	502	2,960	6,590	2,210	8,810
December	2,450	362	2,810	2,390	448	2,840	6,540	2,120	8,670
January-December	30,500	5,040	35,500	29,900	4,910	34,800	XX	XX	XX
2003:									
January	2,580	333	2,910	2,420	425	2,850	6,650	2,030	8,680
February	1,970	321	2,290	2,300	465	2,760	6,320	1,890	8,210
March	2,470	308	2,780	2,680	447	3,130	6,160	1,750	7,910
Total	7,020	962	7,980	7,400	1,340	8,740	XX	XX	XX

^PPreliminary. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2002:		
January-February	147	6,430
February	29	784
March	142	6,000
April	145	6,400
May	78	2,440
June	111	5,370
July	110	4,900
August	142	5,560
September	112	4,910
October	124	5,270
November	86	2,370
December	127	5,230
January-December	1,320	54,900
Total year ³	2,700	112,000
2003: ⁴		
January	65	1,790
February	131	5,180
Total	196	6,970

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2001	2002 ^p	2003 ^{e,1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	W	30.5	28.4
Idaho and Utah	W	5.0	3.9
Total ²	31.9	35.5	32.3
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	28.1	29.9	30.0
Idaho and Utah	4.7	4.9	5.4
Total ²	32.8	34.8	35.4
Yearend stocks	7.5	8.7	7.9
Exports ³	--	--	--
Average value per ton	W	W	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.7	2.7
Average value per ton	\$49.30	\$41.45	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,4}	35.3	37.5	38.1

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Source: U.S Census Bureau 2001-02, reported by producers in 2003.

⁴Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - MARCH

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	50
Austria	68
Belgium	178
Brazil	69
Bulgaria	24
France	100
Germany	16
Greece	39
India	155
Indonesia	103
Italy	43
Japan	28
Korea, Republic of	121
Mexico	272
New Zealand	139
Pakistan	60
Peru	27
Poland	203
Portugal	9
Romania	47
Serbia and Montenegro	57
Spain	404
Thailand	49
United States	548
Total	2,810

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.